



**SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON**

3 September 2021

**MEMORANDUM FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE COMMANDERS**

**SUBJECT: Mandatory Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination of Department of the Air Force Military Members**

On 24 August 2021, the Secretary of Defense issued a mandate for all members of the Armed Forces under Department of Defense authority on active duty or in the Ready Reserve, including the National Guard, to immediately begin full vaccination against COVID-19.

Effective immediately, commanders in the Department of the Air Force shall take all steps necessary to ensure all uniformed Airmen and Guardians receive the COVID-19 vaccine, which includes issuing unit-wide and individual orders to their military members. Commanders must take action systematically and as expeditiously as possible to ensure prompt and full vaccination of Service members. Unless exempted, Active Duty Airmen and Guardians will be fully vaccinated by 2 November 2021. Unless exempted, Ready Reserve, to include National Guard, Airmen and Guardians will be fully vaccinated by 2 December 2021. To aid in the process, there are additional resources available in the COVID-19 Commander's Toolkit, available at <https://usaf.dps.mil/teams/COVID-19/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

Only COVID-19 vaccines that receive full licensure from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will be utilized for mandatory vaccinations unless a military member volunteers to receive a vaccine that has obtained U.S. Food and Drug Administration Emergency Use Authorization or is included in the World Health Organization's Emergency Use Listing. Individuals with previous COVID-19 infection or positive serology are not considered fully vaccinated and are not exempt.

Pursuant to my authority under Article 22 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and Rules for Courts-Martial 306, 401, and 601, I hereby withhold initial disposition authority from all commanders within the Department of the Air Force who do not possess at least special court-martial convening authority and who are not in the grade of O-6 with respect to any alleged offense that constitutes refusal or failure to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine. Commanders are advised to consult with their servicing staff judge advocate for further guidance.

Together, we will win this fight against COVID-19. *One Team, One Fight.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Kendall".

Frank Kendall

2 Attachments:

1. Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Mandatory Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination of Department of Defense Service Members," 24 August 2021
2. Department of the Air Force COVID-19 Vaccination Implementation Guidance, 2 September 2021

cc:

AF/CC

SF/CSO